

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04

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----- 057083

R 161340Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

SECSTATE WASHDC 1361

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU

SUBJECT: IZMIR SUFFERS EIGHT HOUR GENERAL STRIKE

REF: ANKARA 4541

1. EIGHT HOUR GENERAL STRIKE OR WORK STOPPAGE CALLED BY
CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) IN IZMIR AREA
PASSED WITH ONLY MINOR INCIDENTS. STRIKE BEGAN AT 0600 LOCAL
TIME AND ENDED AT 1400. ONLY TURK-IS ASSOCIATED UNIONS
PARTICIPATED SO SOME ESTABLISHMENTS ORGANIZED BY DISK
ASSOCIATED UNIONS NOT CLOSED DOWN.

2. MAJOR EFFECT OF STRIKE WAS SUSPENSION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

PAGE 2 RUFLAEA6955 U C O N F I D E N T I A L

-- WATER, ELECTRICITY, BUS, AND GARBAGE COLLECTION. FERRYBOATS
WHICH PROVIDE COMMUTER SERVICE FROM ACROSS THE BAY ALSO IDLED.

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INOPERATIVE TRAFFIC LIGHTS PLUS INORDINATELY HIGH NUMBER OF

TAXIS, JITNEYS, PRIVATE CARS AND VILLAGE BUSES MADE MORNING TRAFFIC WORSE THAN USUAL. WORK ALSO SUSPENDED AT ALL PORT FACILITIES AND AT COMMERCIAL AIRPORT. FLIGHTS SCHEDULED FOR STRIKE PERIOD WERE CANCELLED OR ADJUSTED TO ARRIVE OR DEPART BEFORE OR AFTER STRIKE PERIOD.

3. HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS APPEARED TO BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. ALL SHOPS AND SMALL OFFICES DOING BUSINESS AS USUAL. SOME SMALL MANUFACTURING OR PROCESSING PLANTS CLOSED BECAUSE OF ELECTRICITY OR WATER SHORTAGE, BUT MAJORITY OF NON-UNION PLANTS APPEARED TO BE WORKING. POST, TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH (PTT), RAILWAYS AND BREAD BAKERS OPEN FOR BUSINESS DESPITE ADVANCE INDICATIONS IN PRESS THAT THESE WOULD BE CLOSED.

4. COMMENT: EIGHT HOUR WORK STOPPAGE WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED SUCCESS BY BOTH PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS. OPPONENTS WILL CORRECTLY NOTE THAT STOPPAGE ONLY MINOR INCONVENIENCE TO AVERAGE AREA RESIDENT. FACT THAT IZMIRLIS HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO INTERMITTENT ELECTRICITY BLACKOUTS AND WATER

PAGE 3 RUFLAEA6955 C O N F I D E N T I A L

CUTOFFS PROBABLY TENDED TO AMELIORATE THE EFFECTS FOR MOST PEOPLE. TURK-IS, ON THE OTHER HAND, PROBABLY CONSIDERES THE STOPPAGE A SUCCESS. IT HAS ESTABLISHED A PRECEDENT, ALBEIT A QUALIFIED ONE, FOR A GENERAL WORK STOPPAGE. AREA RESIDENTS WERE NOT GREATLY INCONVENIENCED AND NOT THEREFORE ANTAGONIZED BY STOPPAGE. THEY ARE NOW AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT TURK-IS HAS THE POWER TO MAKE THINGS VERY UNPLEASANT IF IT SHOULD SO DESIRE, AND IF, AS IT DID THIS TIME, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALLOW IT TO DO SO.

SMITH

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